flight reached Delhi at 0530 hours on 26.6.92.

(c) The incident is under investigation by the permanent Investigation Board of Indian Airlines and action, if found necessary, will be taken on the basis of the investigation report.

Merger of International Airport Authority with National Airport Authority

467. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to merge International Airport Authority with the National Airport Authority;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefore; and

(c) what is the way in which the merger will facilitate the smooth working of the Airports Authority?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The proposal is under consideration.

Helicopter Services to North-Eastern Region

468. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised a scheme to start helicopter services linking up North-Eastern Areas with important centres;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) by when the scheme is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) A proposal for introduction of helicopter services in the North Eastern region is under formulation.

Air link with Israel and South Africa

469. SHRI P. UPENDRA:
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether plans for new links with Israel and South Africa have been finalised in the fields of air travel and tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these plans are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) No plans have been finalised for airlinking India and South Africa as yet.

With regard to Israel, it has been agreed by the two Governments to permit the designated airline to operate upto 2 frequencies with not more than 500 seats per week in each direction between the two countries. However, neither Air India nor EL AL (Israeli Airline) propose to introduce services on this route at present.

Use of Bangalore as a Transit Station

470. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangalore has been made a transit station with no flights originating;

(b) whether it is also a fact that several flights originating from Madras are routed through Bangalore because later is capable of generating traffic; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?